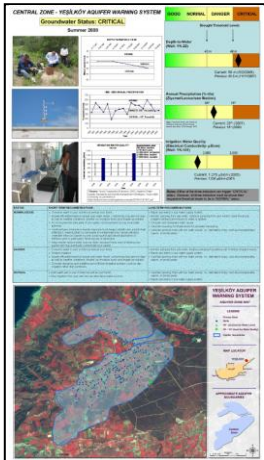




March 2, 2009, No. 89

Dry Times Lead to New Water SAVE-ing Approaches



Expanding ongoing efforts to improve the management of Cyprus' limited and dwindling water supplies, SAVE introduced a new way to estimate drought severity in a pilot village in rural Cyprus. The Aquifer Warning System demonstrates how well-designed models and information management tools, such as this one, can help water managers plan for

sustainable pumping rates, minimize over-pumping, inform local users about their role in helping protect the aquifer, and ensure longer term sustainable use of the groundwater resource during periods of low rainfall. If successful, more villages in Cyprus will be able to utilize this tool to improve water conservation at the local level. SAVE, together with area water managers presented the Aquifer Warning System to farmers in the area of Yesilkoy/Ayios Andronikos along with an informative poster detailing its uses and implications. In addition, SAVE will continue to provide assistance in maintaining the data for the System. Development of these kinds of tools to improve public awareness and promote local conservation emerged as a priority during a SAVE Training of Trainers program.

The SAVE team and local managers present the Aquifer Warning System to area farmers.



Technology Knows No Boundaries: ICT Roundtable Bridges Gaps

While obstacles to trade and interaction between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot businesses continue to exist, the field of technology and communication may offer a unique opportunity for businesses to collaborate over the dividing Green Line. Under the EU Green Line Trade Regulation, cooperation in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector requires no special permits or other bureaucratic processes. In an effort to explore these possibilities, exchange information and build rapport, leaders from the information and communications technology sector from both communities met on Thursday, February 19. Beyond discussing the challenges facing the sector globally and on-island, the group began to identify possible areas of collaboration. The meeting—hopefully the first in a series that will grow to include other promising sectors—was facilitated by EDGE and included participants from different business associations, including the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce. Participants discussed several areas of collaboration, including a potential joint venture and the implementation of a more formal business-facilitation event that would include technology and communications companies from both communities.

The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises

EDGE recently conducted an audit of its performance monitoring and evaluation plan. The analysis showed progress relative to deliverables, milestones, and results, with many teams achieving results in year one that equal or surpass those expected for all three years of the project. Final proofs of the Turkish version of the *TC Competitiveness Report* are complete and the report is ready for publication. EDGE is working with the TC Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the Report's distribution be part of a wider strategy to keep up the momentum generated on critical economic reform issues by the January 30 "Competitiveness Forum" and related activities. The Agricultural Extension Service interns returned from the FruitLogistica exhibition having made several solid contacts and better able to counsel TC producers on global trends and on reaching and penetrating markets effectively.

Resource Efficiency Achievement Project

REAP conducted an in-depth survey measuring consumer attitudes about energy efficiency and their satisfaction with the Turkish Cypriot electricity utility. REAP then compiled the results and created a presentation to convey survey findings. Overall, it was found that the "action" (more than the "education") messages of the campaign had a noticeable impact on customer heating behaviors. In addition, the number of people placing calls to the utility for reliable information has increased and the demand remains high among customers for more information about energy efficient appliances. The survey also revealed a willingness among customers to pay for alternative energy sources, something REAP will explore together with the utility.

Action for Cooperation and Trust

Participants from Cyprus and abroad gave interactive presentations, shared teaching lessons, and discussed practical proposals on integrating lessons from the *Alternative Southeast European History Material* into all history classrooms of Cyprus. Participants at the workshop received a certificate of attendance as well as four *Alternative Southeast European History Material* workbooks (i.e., The Ottoman Empire; Nations and States in Southeast Europe; The Balkan Wars; and The Second World War).

Supporting Activities that Value the Environment

A guide to "Yard Waste Composting" at the local level is being distributed as part of a SAVE small grant to improve waste collection and management on the island. SAVE conducted the second of a two-part training to agriculture extension interns and agriculture managers on the use of CROPWAT software. A practical, free-of-charge tool developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, CROPWAT is used to determine crop water requirements, establish irrigation schedules and assess crop yield reductions under drought conditions. The training included a hands-on computer-based tutorial session on how to perform analyses similar to those done with soil moisture data collected from the local orchards.

Capacity Development and Training

The team presented the findings of its assessment to USAID Cyprus on February 17 and previewed its recommendations for the design of eight initial training interventions targeting bank compliance officers, tour guides, restaurateurs, vocational and technical education teachers, and family-owned SMEs.

While visiting USAID/Cyprus, David Leong, USAID Regional Mission Director, and Bill Granger, USAID Regional Executive Officer, visited several USAID project sites, including an EDGE-supported pomegranate farm (top right), the SAVE-funded newly installed walkway over the mosaics at Soli (bottom right), and the SAVE-renovated St. Mamas Church (bottom left).



News from Nicosia

February 25

President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat met to continue their discussion on the property issue. The property issue is the second topic of the full-fledged negotiations launched last September with the aim of bringing about a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. The next topic expected to be discussed is "EU matters."



OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.
 - The **Capacity Development and Training (CADET)** project complements other USG-funded programs in Cyprus by providing capacity development and training in critical areas.